

BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES FOR MEN.

AS DIFFERENT FROM STOCK PANTS AS POETRY FROM PROSE.

Picture of the Merchant Tailors' Meet of the Remorse of the Bad Tailor and the Heavenly Welcome of the Good One—New Styles Displayed in an Art Show.

The outward forms the inner man reveal. We guess the pulp before we cut the peel.

—Convention notes.

Sartorial aesthetes to the number of about 100 came from all the Eastern States yesterday to gather for the first convention of the Merchant Tailors' National Exchange and to listen to the reading of a paper in the College Room of the Hotel Astor that was fashioned, doubtless unconsciously, after the manner of Whistler's famous Oxford "Ten O'Clock" and was all about the ethics and aesthetics of pants and things. Besides the convention work, yesterday was also vanishing day at the exhibit of spring and fall creations in the Pompeian Room.

Everybody that goes in for transcendentalism in glad clothes attended the private view of the exhibit in the evening. Berry Wall was not notified among those present, nor John Dreyer, Hugo Ardleigh, secretary of the Fashion Publishing Company, said, however, that John Bradley of Philadelphia would be on the job to-day. Mr. Bradley, it is said, is somewhat of an institution in Philadelphia inasmuch as none of the younger set there ventures to order clothes until they have Mr. Bradley's opinion on the subject of spring or fall fashion on Chestnut street.

The convention opened at 10:30 A. M. with an invocation by the Rev. Henry Marsh Warren, who prayed that all might be properly clothed. Acting Mayor McGowan then delivered a short address the import of which was "Welcome to our city." President William H. Dixon of Philadelphia responded to the welcome to the metropolis where we find everything worth finding. Then a number of reports were read and the way was now clear for the big event of the day, the paper on "Clothes and Tailoring as Civilizing Influences" by James O. Madison. "Speaking about pants," he began.

"In the Odyssey and the Iliad," in the "Shah Namah" of the Persians, in the Nibelungen Lied and in "Isthar and Ishtar," the great Babylonian poem—

Well, to get right down to the gist of the story, it was that the poets of those days were not ashamed to mention pants. Furthermore, "many pages of descriptions are given to the clothes worn by the heroes sent to foreign countries to proclaim war or negotiate a marriage." Nay, more, "from Herodotus to Plutarch, from Plutarch to Macaulay and from Macaulay to the present day," there are no fewer than 100 references to the clothes of the heroes of the tales of men and women have been treated as important as an influence on the progress of the race and as an index to prevailing conditions."

These statements were accepted in their entirety by the tailors present, and when Herodotus got a mention there was marked approval. Thus encouraged, the lecturer went on to say that a man can be as comfortable and as elegant in hand down as in the real thing, but he will be "neither so happy nor so well thought of by his fellows." And it is a clincher that the toes to the world would be incalculable if it were not for the fact that the full meaning of the text of Homer, Virgil, Dante, Shakespeare and all our great poets, "we were to lose the verified expression. The natural inference from this is that a world of hand me downs would get along some way, but that it would be an excruciating place in which to live. Sweetness and light would peter out and William Jennings Bryan would be as other men, colorless, baggy and wrinkled."

"Except when asleep or bathing," continued Mr. Madison, "man's clothes are at least on his mind. To order them is a serious business; to wear them properly requires constant study, care and attention." To pay for them is painful. The speaker took up the ethics of the tailor at this point and dwelt for some time on the responsibility of a sinful tailor for many "failures in love, in ambition, in the social world." Remorse would gnaw at his soul if he had one, frightful nightmares would make his sleep a torture, and he would, unless dead to shame, regard himself with horror. Mr. Madison went on:

Good clothes not only give to all those that wear them, from the cradle to the grave, an appearance as dissimilar to what mankind is actually as the sky would have at night from what it seems to be if the constellations were outlined in fiery lines as they were pictured by the astrologers of old but they are a never without which the customs which distinguish civilization from the savagery of primitive savagery could neither exist nor be maintained. (Applause.) The man who would go to an opera wearing a bathing suit would be a miracle, even if he were to remain, and should be vented to disport himself in the turf at Long Branch faultlessly attired in evening clothes he would probably be arrested for disorderly conduct.

If a man's coat is artistically wrinkled in the back and he knows it he cannot walk in any fashionable street without thinking of that wrinkle nearly all the time and planning over his shoulder the every few minutes to see whether or not he is being looked at by those behind him; and if one or both of the legs of his trousers twist he is always oppressed by the thought that when he comes to the twist and that he is being pulled by nearly every well dressed man who sees him. There, therefore, a great responsibility on tailors."

Mr. Madison hastened to say at this point that the tailors cannot be held responsible for self-concocted men who have their clothes made after their own ideas "independently of having them made," as it were, according to the prescription of a competent, well informed tailor. But tailors are responsible for the humiliation and shame that come to the tailors through wearing clothes that do not fit them properly. "And when the tailor is to blame for the terrible effects that follow the cutting of pants that hike too high on the leg then, alas! the scaly alligators of remorse must, in his moments of reflection, gnaw at his conscience and make him hate himself." On the other hand, when a tailor makes good clothes that are well made and that are well worn, said Mr. Madison, feelingly, "and that for the good he has done he will be rewarded with a crown of unusual splendor," and, it may be added, a happy made to measure.

"Who would select," asked the speaker, "a badly dressed man as a person of importance?" Also "the high class merchant tailor of this country is a being of great wealth and power. His taste is unquestioned and his charges are often demagogical. But good clothes, like good legal and medical advice, cost high and are worth it even though they flatten the cheeks like the head of an elephant. The interest American now feel in the ethics of dress proves that in our daily existence we are escaping from the severer services of utility and according to the region in which identity of dress makes more or less happy, than all the paintings and sculptures in the world."

Mr. Madison spoke beautifully of the road that leads to the Sheriff's safe notice on the door.

This road leads over vast plains of ignorance and over vast towering mountains of care-walves; through deep, dark and mysterious valleys of botchery; through mossy growth, of haunted forests of cheap goods; through vast material swamps of credit (laplace) and by turbulent rivers of egotism and stagnation of cranks, no greater calamity could befall mankind than for it suddenly to come to pass that tailors on earth could make better clothes for men than those made when the nineteenth century

SCHNITZLER'S "LIEBELEI."

ABLE VIENNESE TRAGEDY CALLED "THE RECKENING."

And Most Serious Work of the "Author of 'Souper d'Adieu'—Painful (with Central) in the Maiden Who is Too Weak—Albert Bruning Pleases

Art-View Schnitzler, the leader of modern playwrights in Vienna, whom Charlotte Wiebe made known to us two years ago at the Berkeley Lyceum Theatre in his farcical "Souper d'Adieu," was seen at the same house last night in his best and most serious piece, "Liebeleil," which in English is called "The Reckoning."

Both plays are intensely Viennese, centering in the amours of easy, careless youth—"Das Süsser Madl." But where the former piece deliciously mocks their sham heroics, this one lays bare with finely poignant art the tragedy that may lie beneath them.

The thematic centre of the play last night was an old musician of humble fortune. Unable to provide a marriage portion for his sister, he has guarded her with religious care, had seen her grow old in virtuous spinsterhood by his side, and finally die having never known the joy of youth and love. The title of her fate might have been "No Viennese Waits Music for Her." Saddened in his sensuously poetic old heart, he resolved to let his daughter Christine have the wine of life, though illicitly. It is her "careless" and the fate of them that give the play the title.

Her lover is a young student who is just struggling free from an affair with a married woman in which he sees danger ahead, and who takes up with a new love before he is well off with the old. The result is a duel with the husband in which the young man is killed. Christine has a heart above waits music. She is sincerely and passionately in love. Friends and relatives have a place at the dead man's side, but not she. She demands to be taken to his grave, and it is told that there will be another woman there. She goes out, none the less, and her grief-stricken father knows that he will find her dead beside the grave.

The main incidents of the three slender acts—the amour, the duel and the death—are familiar enough in the Continental drama. What gives the play its novelty and its character is the philosophy of the old father and its tragic result. If, as seems likely, the purpose of the present representation is to pave the way to the regular stage, it is probably not destined to succeed. The fate of the dowryless girl on the Continent in general, and the frank unvarnished story in particular, are not likely to find any broadly sympathetic hearing in a puritan country. But the fundamental theme of it all—the right to the joy of youth and love—is universal; and treated as it is with fine sympathy and essential morality, it abundantly rewards an intelligent hearing.

The present production under the direction of Gustav von Seyffertitz, once leading comedian and stage manager at the Irving Place theatre, in collaboration with Frederick Sullivan. Except when cramped by the narrowness of the stage it is distinctly competent. The acting is able if undistinguished. Katherine Grey, as the heroine, reveals unvarnished simplicity and charm in the earlier phases of her interpretation, and, sincere throughout, though clearly not up to the intense and poignant emotionalism of the last act. As her father, George Henry Truett gives an able technical performance, though without mellowness.

Phyllis Rankin is breezy in the part of the more ordinary type of coquette, and Sarah McVick is a character sketch amusingly. The young lover and his friend are agreeably played by John Dean and Robert Connors.

By far the best work of the evening was done by Albert Bruning, as the wronged husband. He appears for only a moment, but his magnetism and latent force are electric and illumined the scene. Together with his Rosalinda in the ill fated "House of Mirth," the performance places him very high among our actors.

The translation, by Grace Isabel Colburn, is simple, easy and touched with happy verbiage.

NEXT WEEK'S OPERAS.

Rousseliere to Make His Last Appearance at the Metropolitan.

"L'Africaine" will be sung on Monday at the Metropolitan Opera House by Mmes. Eames and MM. Plancon and Stracciari. "Parsifal" will be sung on Friday morning by Mmes. Fremstad and MM. Burgtaller, Van Rooy, Goritz and Blas.

"Madama Butterfly" will be performed at night by Mmes. Farrar and Homer and MM. Caruso and Scotti. "Tristan und Isolde" will be given at the Saturday matinee by Mmes. Gadski and Schumann-Heink and MM. Burrian, Van Rooy and Blas.

The opera for Saturday evening has not yet been selected.

M. Rousseliere is the first of the artists to leave, although others will soon follow. M. Burrian has prolonged his stay in this country for a short time, but will return to Germany as the beginning of March. Mmes. Eames leaves at the end of the month for a concert tour and Mmes. Cavalieri returns to Europe at the beginning of March.

At the end of the first week in March Mmes. Sembrich leaves the company to appear at the star of various musical festivals in Louisville, Syracuse and other cities.

MRS. FISCH'S VAUDEVILLE.

Many Dignitaries Precede an Unusual Entertainment.

Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish of Madison avenue and Seventy-eighth street gave an entertainment last night which was preceded by a number of dinners given by Mrs. P. Cooper Hewitt, Mrs. Moses Taylor Campbell, Mrs. Richard Gambrill, Mr. and Mrs. L. Cass Canfield, Mr. and Mrs. Karlick Riggs and T. Sufferer Tailor. The Fish house was adorned with big clusters of American beauty roses in vases, bowls and jardiniere, and palms were picturesquely grouped.

Mrs. Mahr gave a toe dance and Beatrice Herford followed with an original monologue. Henri De Vries gave "A Case of Arson," and Gertrude Hoffman and Clarence Vance gave imitations and sang. A Mardi Gras dance was led by five dancers from "The Rose of the Rancho." The guests participated in this, the women wearing paper hats and carrying parasols and wands. The men wore tuxedo hats, felly caps and carried machetes and hatchets.

It would have sounded more homogeneous had it been seated further back and not so much strung together on the platform. However, the performance had merit and as for our friend Mr. Fisch, he was a tower of strength, conducting the great work without a word of knowledge, his wit was convincing and with an enthusiasm which was inspiring.

PENINSULAR RAILROAD Bulletin.

THE HEIGHT OF THE FLORIDA SEASON.

February is the popular month in Florida. Oranges and strawberries are ripe; the golfing is great; the fishing fine; the boating and bathing at their best; the social events frequent, and the climate, with a liberal touch of Spring, is delightful.

The "Florida Special," the "Southern's Limited," and the "Seaboard Florida Limited"—all Pullman trains running through to St. Augustine and connecting for Palm Beach and Miami—offer attractive train service.

Tours to Jacksonville leave by special train on February 19 and March 5. Ask Ticket Agents for itineraries giving rates and full information.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

A son of Mr. Hall Caine has been playing three parts in his father's play of "The Bondman"—a coastguardman, a farmhand and a convict. Mr. Hall Caine, speaking of his son's career, said that he had long wished to be an actor, an ambition which his mother has not been willing to encourage.

"For my own part," the author writes, "I have thought best to let him have his way rather than leave on his mind and heart the sore impression of a baffled ambition. But I have taken care that he should begin at the bottom and learn all there is to know of the stage as well as the sweet of theatrical life."

In an autograph letter offered for sale Ouida remonstrates against the modern taste for publicity. "I regret to refuse your request and cannot comply with it. What impertinence and what folly are those so-called biographies of persons who have done nothing to deserve such a punishment! The life of such a man as Burton or Wellington contains material for history, but those of a man or woman of the world have nothing in them which is not essentially private and personal and with which the public and the press have nothing to do."

H. G. Wells in conversation recently summed up his views concerning America and its future by saying that the principal danger for the country lies in too great a growth of a dangerous type of individualism and too little of a binding of the people together by the State.

Frederic Harrison, the writer and authority on jurisprudence and history, was a close friend of George Eliot, who often asked his advice in regard to points of law that came up in the course of her stories. She consulted him in regard to a vital question in "Felix Holt," and Mr. Harrison listened as earnestly as if the problem concerned real individuals and not creations of fiction. The next day he sent her a carefully worded opinion, which she used in the book just as he wrote it. In the story it is ascribed to the "attorney-general," and referred to as "final authority."

In the new edition of George Eliot's works recently brought out the passage is printed in italics in Chapter XXXV. Mr. Harrison was surprised and pleased to see his own words used in the novel and says: "Thanks to George Eliot, I have written something that will live forever."

Next month a new book by William Stearns Davis will be published under the title of "The Victor of Salamis." The book will deal with ancient Greek life in much the same manner as the life of the Roman Empire was pictured in the author's first book, "A Friend of Caesar."

"A Simple Spelling Bee" by Owen Wister is a new story in humorous vein to be published on February 20. The title suggests the story, which is said to be a worthy successor to "Philosophy Four."

Robert Hichins receives many invitations to visit different localities and to do for them what he has done for Sicily and the Sahara. These invitations come from far distant places—India, California, Finland, Brazil, Greece and Japan—but he still lingers on the Mediterranean, which exerts a profound fascination over him, and he is hard at work upon another Mediterranean novel. Mr. Hichins is fond of travelling and has not only visited most countries in Europe but has made excursions into Africa and to the West Indies. His father, Canon Hichins, was a Cornishman, but the blood of many races, French, Swedish, German and Portuguese, is mingled in his ancestry on the mother's side.

"Aunt Jane of Kentucky" is the title of a new story of moral life and homespun philosophy in which the author, Eliza Calvert Hall, is said to have done for the blue grass country what Sarah Orne Jewett and Mary E. Wilkins have done for New England life.

James Kendall Hower, Ph. D., LL. D., whose history of the first half of the century was published in January under the title "The Appeal to Arms," will have a new volume brought out next week called "Outcome of the Civil War"—the two together making a complete and authoritative history of that period. Mr. Hower is the son of a minister, a graduate of Harvard and has been the editor of the "University Church at Deerfield," a college professor and a librarian. He served during the civil war as a private, declining a staff appointment which was offered to him. He is a close student, especially of military history, and has written several volumes on historical subjects.

Nora Archibald Smith, the sister of and frequently the collaborator with Kate Douglas Wiggin, has written a new work for children, entitled "The Story of a Doll." There are three principal characters in the little tale, the scene of which is laid in a town in the highlands of Scotland, down whose streets the picturesque pipers march in their kilts and tartan gowns.

The characters are Betty, a child of five, Muff, a little dog, who is so much like the article of apparel after which he is named that you can't tell his head from his tail, and Bettykin, a rag doll whose adventures are recounted.

Harry Alonzo Cushing, who has edited the edition of "The Writings of Samuel Adams," published by G. P. Putnam's Sons in three volumes, has been appointed a professor in Columbia University.

An essay written by Maurice Maeterlinck to appear as the leading article in the March number of "The Social Revolution." It is entitled "The Social Revolution."

On February 20 Jack London's "Before Adam" will be published. It is a tale of prehistoric times, in which the author undertakes to reconstruct the life of the earliest man in the light of modern science. Somewhat later in the spring Mr. London will bring out a book of eight short stories entitled "Love of Life."

Mrs. Mabel Barnes-Grundy is a new writer who has an aptitude for observations of life and her power to provoke both smiles and tears. Her latest book, which was published in England as "Marguerite's Wonderful Year," will be brought out here with the more simple title of "Dimby and I." In the dedication of the story "to those that suffer" there is some indication that the central fact of the narrative is taken from life.

Eleanor Gates, author of "The Plow Woman," and her husband, Richard Watson Tully, the playwright, are spending the winter in Capri, where Mrs. Tully is finishing her new novel, "Cupid the Cow Puncher." The villa where they are living belongs to Filib Vedder, the artist.

A new series of books containing stories illustrating the various sports and pastimes of the world, both past and present, will be brought out this spring by McClure, Phillips & Co. The first volume of the series will be "The Game of Chess," by the late Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Chessboard Master," notable for its picture of a prize fight in action.

Santa Fe

Fred Harvey dining-car service is appreciated by persons traveling on the

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ART SALES AND EXHIBITIONS.

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AMERICAN ART GALLERIES

DAY 9 TO 6

MADISON SQUARE SOUTH

ON FREE VIEW

NEW YORK CITY

DAY AND EVENING

AT UNRESTRICTED PUBLIC SALE

On Friday Evening of This Week.

Beginning at 8 o'clock,

At Mendelssohn Hall

(Admission by card, to be had free of the managers)

Valuable Paintings

AND

Water Colors

of the

Barbizon, Modern Dutch,

French, American and other Schools

forming the private collection of

A. Augustus Healy, Esq.

BROOKLYN

THE SALE WILL BE CONDUCTED BY MR. THOMAS E. KIRBY OF

The American Art Association, Managers

6 East 23d Street, Madison Square South

VAUDEVILLE MANAGERS JOIN.

Keith & Proctor, Hammerstein and Williams Combine.

Will Be Known as the United Booking Office of America and Will Control the Leading Variety Theatres—Keith, Proctor Houses to Change Plans.

After an all night session a great vaudeville combination was effected yesterday comprising Keith & Proctor, Percy G. Williams and Oscar Hammerstein. The new combination is to be known as the United Booking Office of America. The directors are B. F. Keith, F. F. Proctor, E. F. Albee, Percy G. Williams, J. J. Malone and William Hammerstein. The officers of the combination will be: E. F. Albee, general manager; B. F. Keith, president; F. F. Proctor, vice-president, and A. Paul Keith, secretary and treasurer.

Since the union of the Keith and Proctor forces Percy Williams and Oscar Hammerstein have been working together in opposition to Keith & Proctor. It has been known in vaudeville circles that while Williams and Hammerstein had been able to take care of themselves they have been obliged to import vaudeville artists at big salaries. These foreign artists, among whom is Vesta Victoria, have been such big drawing cards that it is said that Keith & Proctor felt that it was wise to get Hammerstein and Williams into the syndicate if possible.

It was announced yesterday that fair contracts would be entered into between the managers and artists regarding the theatres in which they are to play. No salary cuts are expected. The combination will have nearly every vaudeville house in the country on its lists. It will be able to give artists contracts the year around.

The new combination will make it necessary for Mr. Williams to discontinue vaudeville in the Chestnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia, which he recently secured in order not to compete with the Keith & Proctor house there. The Chestnut street house at big salaries. These foreign artists, among whom is Vesta Victoria, have been such big drawing cards that it is said that Keith & Proctor felt that it was wise to get Hammerstein and Williams into the syndicate if possible.

It was said that William Morris, who has been doing the Williams and Hammerstein booking, does not feel frozen out by the new combination, as he still has a number of theatres on his list.

Opera House may not compete with Williams's Alhambra Theatre, around the corner of Seventh avenue, the stock company which has held forth for years at Proctor's 125th street house, near Third avenue, will move over to the Harlem Opera House and vaudeville will move in at the 125th street theatre. Keith & Proctor's Fifth Avenue Theatre will also become a stock company house.

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SELLING MERRILY!

JAMES L. FORD'S

new novel, The WOOING of FOLLY

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It is a HUMOROUS LOVE STORY

By the author of "The Literary Shop," Etc.

"A captivating book; it deals in the brightest way with the problems of to-day, but it is the love element, beautifully worked out, that interests us most."—BALTIMORE SUN. "The author of 'The Literary Shop' has surpassed himself."—BUFFALO NEWS. "The mind is stimulated by Mr. Ford's tonic way of saying the clever thing in the right place."—NEWARK ADVERTISER.

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